

V. GEPHYREA

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THROUGH the courtesy of the British Museum (Natural History), I have had the privilege of examining this collection. It is a small one containing seven individuals, referable to two genera of Sipunculids and one Echiurid. With one exception they have been recorded previously from the Red Sea, the exception being *Siphonosoma koreae* Satô, whose status is discussed.

ECHIURIDAE

Ochetostoma erythrogrammon (Leuckart & Rüppell)

Sherm Sheik, 15.ii.49. Under rock at low tide. One specimen, body 30 mm., proboscis 22 mm.

This species has already been recorded from a number of localities in the Red Sea.

SIPUNCULIDAE

Siphonosoma koreae Satô

Sherm-el-Moiya, 3.ii.49. Associated with coral. One specimen, not fully extended, 115 mm. in length.

A single specimen, which agrees closely with Satô's description (Satô, 1939: 379), was secured. The body is long and thin, pink in colour, and capped at both ends by areas of yellow colour, the posterior area being much less extensive than the anterior area. The body is translucent, the muscle-bands showing through clearly.

The posterior end of the body is somewhat cone-like, and the yellow cap extends for a distance of 5 mm. The introvert is not fully extended, but the yellow area occupies some 20 mm. of the body.

In the specimen described by Satô the colour of the body is given as greyish white.

The skin has numerous papillae, prominent and closely packed on the posterior end and at the base of the introvert, small and scattered on the rest of the body.

Satô described the papillae on the posterior end in his specimen as being less prominent than those on the introvert basis. In this specimen, however, they are of similar size. On the introvert basis the area of prominent papillae extends for about 4 mm.

On the introvert the papillae are small and arranged on circular ridges.

The longitudinal muscle is divided into 19 bands, as in Satô's specimen.

This species was described by Satô from a single specimen taken at Gunzan in Korea on 2 September 1937. In his key and text it is described as being very similar to *S. cumanense* (Keferstein), separable mainly by colour differences, especially the yellow caps, and by the character of the papillae on the basis of the introvert. The

specimen from Aqaba differs from the Korean one in the colour of the body and the greater prominence of the posterior papillae. In view of the somewhat protean nature of *S. cumanense*, with its three well-marked and widely distributed varieties, of which two are common to both the Red Sea and Korean waters, as well as the differences between the two known specimens, it is possible that more material may show that it is not a distinct species but only another variety of *S. cumanense*.

Physcosoma pacificum (Keferstein)

Abu Zabad. 11.ii.49. On reef at low tide. Two specimens. One partially extended, 12 cm. in length. The other similar in size but much contracted. Greyish brown in colour, with scattered darker patches.

Tiran. 10.i.49. Associated with coral. One large specimen; not fully extended, about 13 cm. in length. Uniformly greyish brown in colour with a number of darker bands anteriorly.

Dahab. 3.ii.49. Shore. Two specimens of similar size to the above, but too contracted for measurement. Greyish brown in colour, with scattered darker patches.

This species is widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific area and has already been recorded from the Red Sea.

REFERENCE

- SARÔ, H. 1939. Studies on the Echiuroidea, Sipunculoidea, and Priapuloidea of Japan. *Sci. Rep. Tôhoku Univ.* (4) **14**: 339-460, 5 pls., 60 figs.